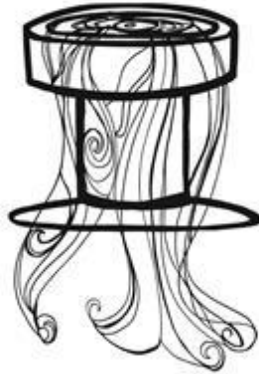


Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



WaterLife Family Service
Sacrament of Holy Communion

February 16, 2024
10:45 a.m.

St. James Lutheran Church

109 York Street, Gettysburg, PA
www.StJamesGettysburg.org

Welcome to St. James. Here are some tips for worshipping with us.

Large print bulletins and hearing-assist devices can be found on the welcome table in the main hall. Please stand as you are able for parts of the service noted with an asterisk (*). Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

P Presider **C** Congregation **A** Assisting Minister **L** Lay Reader

The worship service will be livestreamed to our YouTube Channel and made available for public viewing. Please note that you may be recorded during worship. You can visit our YouTube Channel at StJamesGettysburg.org/YouTube. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with a member of the staff.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *need title*

Morgan Smith, violin

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Loving God, we come to you asking for guidance and forgiveness for the times we have not been our best selves.
- P** For the times we laughed at others instead of getting to know them,
- C** **Renovate our understanding.**
- P** For the times we've worried if your love is real
- C** **Renovate our faith.**
- P** For the times we have been afraid that something won't work out,
- C** **Renovate our doubt.**
- P** For the times we've let our emotions get in the way of doing what is right
- C** **Renovate our feelings.**
- P** For the times when life has been too busy to see you
- C** **Renovate our awareness.**
- P** For the times when we've judged someone before getting to know them
- C** **Renovate our compassion.**
- P** Just like a house under renovation, our hearts are being made new. Jesus forgives us and helps us grow. Receive the love and forgiveness of Jesus into your hearts, knowing that God is always at work in us.
- C** **Amen.**

*RENOVATION SONG

1 I'm fixing up my house now
I'm following God's design
I said I'm fixing up my house now
I'm following God's design
It's gonna be a fine house
Full of love for humankind

2 I'm laying my foundation
It's got to be good and strong
I said I'm laying my foundation
It's got to be good and strong
For when the house is solid
Everyone can belong

3 The walls are going up now
They got to be straight and tall
I said the walls are going up now
They got to be straight and tall
Standing up for justice
Peace, goodwill for all

4 The windows in my house now
Are gonna let the sunshine in
I said the windows in my house now
Are gonna let the sunshine in
For when the sun is shining
Light comes streaming in

5 My neighbors are invited
They're coming in through my front door
I said my neighbors are invited
They're coming in through my front door
Everybody's welcome
No matter if you're rich or poor

*PASTORAL GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray: Dear God, you love us as we are, but you work with us to make us the best versions of ourselves. Help us as we love one another as you love us and help us to share that love with all we meet. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING: Matthew 26: 31-39, 69-75

Translation from The Message Bible

³¹⁻³² Then Jesus told them, “Before the night’s over, you’re going to fall to pieces because of what happens to me. There is a Scripture that says,

I’ll strike the shepherd;
dazed and confused, the sheep will be scattered.

But after I am raised up, I, your Shepherd, will go ahead of you, leading the way to Galilee.”

³³ Peter broke in, “Even if everyone else falls to pieces on account of you, I won’t.”

³⁴ “Don’t be so sure,” Jesus said. “This very night, before the rooster crows up the dawn, you will deny me three times.”

³⁵ Peter protested, “Even if I had to die with you, I would never deny you.” All the others said the same thing.

Not long after, Jesus was arrested and Peter sat in the courtyard. A servant girl came up to him and said, “You were with Jesus the Galilean.”

⁷⁰ In front of everybody there, he denied it. “I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

⁷¹ As he moved over toward the gate, someone else said to the people there, “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.”

⁷² Again he denied it, salting his denial with an oath: “I swear, I never laid eyes on the man.”

⁷³ Shortly after that, some bystanders approached Peter. “You’ve got to be one of them. Your accent gives you away.”

⁷⁴⁻⁷⁵ Then he got really nervous and swore. “I don’t know the man!”

Just then a rooster crowed. Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” He went out and cried and cried and cried.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Acts 9: 1-19

¹⁻² All this time Saul was breathing down the necks of the Master’s disciples, out for the kill. He went to the Chief Priest and got arrest warrants to take to the meeting places in Damascus so that if he found anyone there belonging to the Way, whether men or women, he could arrest them and bring them to Jerusalem.

³⁻⁴ He set off. When he got to the outskirts of Damascus, he was suddenly dazed by a blinding flash of light. As he fell to the ground, he heard a voice: “Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me?”

⁵⁻⁶ He said, “Who are you, Master?”

“I am Jesus, the One you’re hunting down. I want you to get up and enter the city. In the city you’ll be told what to do next.”

⁷⁻⁹ Saul, picking himself up off the ground, found himself stone-blind. His helpers had to take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus. He continued blind for three days. He ate nothing, drank nothing.

¹⁰ There was a disciple in Damascus by the name of Ananias. The Master spoke to him in a vision: “Ananias.”

“Yes, Master?” he answered.

¹¹⁻¹² “Get up and go over to Straight Avenue. Ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus. His name is Saul. He’s there praying. He has just had a dream in which he saw a man named Ananias enter the house and lay hands on him so he could see again.”

¹³⁻¹⁴ Ananias protested, “Master, you can’t be serious. Everybody’s talking about this man and the terrible things he’s been doing, his reign of terror against your people in Jerusalem! And now he’s shown up here with papers from the Chief Priest that give him license to do the same to us.”

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ But the Master said, “Don’t argue. Go! I have picked him as my personal representative to non-Jews and kings and Jews. And now I’m about to show him what he’s in for—the hard suffering that goes with this job.”

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, “Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” No sooner were the words out of his mouth than something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes—he could see again! He got to his feet, was baptized, and sat down with them to a hearty meal.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*BRAVERY SONG

Chorus

Be brave! Be brave!
Have courage in your heart
Trust God! Trust God!
And you can do your part
When there's something scary or hard that you must do
Just remember God is with you and God will see you through
Be brave!

- 1 Gideon, Gideon, Gideon
Scared the enemy away
Gideon, Gideon, Gideon
Was very brave that day (chorus)
- 2 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
'Though the fire was hot they say
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
Were very brave that day (chorus)
- 3 Ananias, Ananias
Chose to serve God come what may
Ananias, Ananias
Was very brave that day (chorus)
- 4 Simon Peter, Simon Peter
Oh, I don't know what to say
Simon Peter, Simon Peter
Was not too brave that day

Final Chorus

Be brave! Be brave!
Have courage in your heart
Trust God! Trust God!
And you can do your part
When there's something scary or hard that you must do
Just remember God is with you and God will see you through
Be brave! Be brave! Be brave!

*RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Petitions conclude: "God of grace," Our response: "**hear our prayer.**"

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING: *I Have Loved You*

Michael Joncas

*OFFERING SONG

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son
2x

And now let the weak say, "I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
2x

Give thanks!

*OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C **God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

*THANKSGIVING DIALOG

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*INVITATION

P The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

C **Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

All are welcome at Christ's table. Come one, come all, the feast is spread! An usher will give you a cup and guide you toward the platform. During the continuous flow, please fill in spaces starting at the front of the platform completing the circle. We offer a chalice with grape juice

first, followed by a chalice of wine. Please indicate your preference by extending your glass at the appropriate time. Rice crackers are available for those with gluten allergies. If you are unable to come forward, please alert an usher and you will receive the sacrament while seated.

COMMUNION SONG

Everyone sings this refrain; the stanzas are sung by leaders

Bread of life from heaven
Your blood and body given
We eat this bread and drink this cup
Until you come again.

*TABLE BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A *Let us pray:* Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us in mission to the world

*BLESSING

P The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Live in hope.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Upcoming WaterLife Services - March 30, May 18

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Portions of the liturgy are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. "Renovation Song" and "Bravery Song" © Jonathan Noel. "Give Thanks" © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. "Bread of Life from Heaven" © 2001 GIA Publications.1 Print and streaming permissions granted by Augsburg Fortress License #SAS024997, CCLI License #2678434, and OneLicense.net #A-707473

Lift Up in Prayer

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|---------|
| Sandy Alleman | Richard Henry | Nick Smeal | Jane |
| Taylor Balderas | Deb Litten | Jeff Snyder | Lisa |
| Helen Bardell | Chelli McGlaughlin | Irelyn Sprenkle | Marilyn |
| Katee Brown | Jen Mickelson | John Steinberger | Mike |
| Rena Collins | Stephen | Michelle | Mike |
| Andy Crouse | Ordemann | Steinberger | Miriam |
| Shawn Dooley | Jim Roach | Cheryl Weaver | Ramona |
| Joanne Fisher | Barbara Sanders | Avery | Sean |
| Tim Fleming | William Scott IV | Beverly | Tiffany |
| Caleb Freeman | Lisa Sheads | Bill | Wayne |
| Erin Freeman | Lisa Sites | Dennis | Will |
| Hazel and Frank | Lou Shuba | Diane | |
| George | Deborah Smith | Hilda | |

We rejoice and give thanks for our newest members, who are joining at today's worship services, and for all St. James' members who guide them. Welcome our new members and continue to lead them in your light.

Flowers are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Robert Shuba, brother of Lou Shuba, by Lou and Priscilla Shuba

In loving memory of Rev. Marty Young, by his family.

Announcements

Sunday School is offered between church services. We have the following classes available.

Adult Discussion Group - Religion and Outreach (Library)

Exploring Faith- Theology and Social Issues (Room 300)

The Seekers - Bible Study (Room 204)

Movers and Shapers- Young Adult Fellowship (Room 301)

Faith and Fellowship- Coffee and Discussion (Room 309)

Pre-School-5th Grade Sunday School- (Room 305)

Confirmation (Grades 6-8) – Youth House

Ask an usher if you are unsure about which class is right for you.

Bible Study with Pastor Andrew – Bible Study continues Thursday mornings at 10 am in the Gathering area. We are studying Genesis.

Winter Book Study with Pastor Libby – Join us on Mondays at 3pm in the Gathering Area. We are studying “The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe” by C.S. Lewis.

Youth Group Schedule Change – There will be no youth group on 2/23. Instead, join us for family bowling on 2/23 (keep reading for more details).

Valentine Concert – Enjoy a free community concert at St. James today at 4 p.m. Enjoy performances from various St. James’ musicians and support the Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen and Voices Unite in GAC, through a free will offering.

Family Bowling (for all ages) - Sunday, February 23, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Rockwell Lanes on Biglerville Road. Please RSVP if you plan to attend so we can reserve lanes. RSVP and find more details at stjamesgettysburg.org/event/family-bowling-night/

Church Van Committee – We are looking for a few more committed members to serve on this committee. If interested in serving, please contact Alan Haynes at cardreamer88@comcast.net or 717-778-8102

Common Ground Recovery Ministry – Our next service is Monday March 3 @ 6:30 pm and services continue the 1st Monday of each month. All are welcome !

Meal Train - Are you able to provide a meal for other church members in a time of need? MealTrain.org will be used to organize and schedule meal deliveries. If you can help, contact Joe MacDowell at 717-253-3903 or joekaym65@gmail.com to be added to the list of volunteers.

Bible Study with Pastor Andrew - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Area. We are studying Genesis. All are welcome!

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. - The C.A.R.E.S. program is at capacity (30 guests). Donations to support breakfasts would be greatly appreciated. The bolded items are most in need: **Fruit Juices** (shelf stable), **Ground Coffee**, **Paper Towels**, **Large White Kitchen Trash Bags**, **Dawn Liquid Dish Soap**. These items can be dropped off at the church office. Thanks for your support!

Fastnachts – It’s hard to believe but fastnacht time is right around the corner (March 1-4)!!! Are you able to volunteer with the preparation or do you want to order fastnachts? Sign up to help or order here: stjamesgettysburg.org/event/fastnachts-2025/

Easter Flowers – Lillies and Tulips will be available for \$12.50 each and will decorate the worship space for Easter. You can also honor or memorialize someone by making a donation for ELCA’s World Hunger. **Orders are due by Wednesday, March 19.** You can order using the QR code.



Giving to St. James - Your financial gift allows St. James to do great things! Our mission is to live & love like Jesus. We serve and support our community – both locally & globally. Your gift and support make a difference in our community & world. Thank you! Scan the QR code or visit StJamesGettysburg.org/give.



Sign-up for our weekly eBlast to always know what’s happening at St. James!

Participating in Worship

Preacher

Pastor Libby Baker-Mikesell

Presider

Pastor Andrew R. Geib

Minister of Music

Jonathan Noel

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Adam Michael

WaterLife Choir

K-5 Youth

WaterLife Band

Alli Crowell

Julie Aha

Sharon Kaya

Sherry Waybright

Assisting Minister

Christian DiCampi

Acolyte

Thomas Urai-Thang

Bell Ringer

Briah Russo

Prayer of the Day

Eliza Crowell

Lay Readers

Morgan Smith

Savannah Munsee

Ushers

Noah Puckett

Findley Waybright

Burke Waybright

Briah Russo

Communion Assistants

Anne Young, Jan Keefer,

Sonja Withrow, Carol Widerman

Bread Baker

Ann Ketterman

Sacristy

Jean Uhlig

Dan Kessel

Greeters

Tom Uhlig

Ann Ketterman

Flower Deliverer

Pete Bender

AV Operator

Gary Smith